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STATE

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Hua-ch'iao Jih-pao.

MASSES TAKE PART IN PEOPLE'S COURTS

Although it has a small staff, the People's Court in En-p'ing is very busy. It handled more than 200 cases in the last month, and the minimum number of prisoners at any one time has been 40. At the take-over, affairs were in bad shape, since the former staff had absconded with all movable property.

In judicial procedure, the Eight Maxims and the experience of earlier liberated regions are followed. Important criminals guilty of heinous crimes are remanded to their own districts for judgment. Before announcing the date of a public trial, members of the local populace (especially those who have suffered wrongs) are summoned to the court to take part. The party workers study the facts about the accused and arouse the feelings of the populace, humbly seeking to follow the opinion of the masses. The courts practice the people's democratic dictatorship, and the people's courts suppress antirevolutionary reactionaries and tyrants. Offenders who have been exploited or oppressed are dealt with more leniently. However, if the suspicion of guilt is not justified, the offender may be paroled or set free. This is what the populace wants.

Each prisoner is given one catty of rice per day, and 150 yuan for vegetables. The only extra allowed is salted cabbage. Meat and fish are given every 10 days. Prisoners are allowed twice a day in the courtyard for exercise, and there is constant sanitary inspection.

The prison has a farm, where the prisoners work in squads. They are educated and changed into productive workers. This reformation is in the hands of a political adviser. There are two types of study groups. Those who have been exploited and oppressed are given the most attention to a velop class consciousness and their political awareness. The other group consists of those who are more advanced in culture. The educational content of their program includes the new democracy, democratic dictatorship, common program, etc.

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